

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 11887 011643Z

61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 PA-02 USIA-15 NSC-05 /051 W

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R 011630Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3427

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMCONSUL BELFAST

UNCLAS LONDON 11887

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, UK(NI)

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S NORTHERN IRELAND TRIP

REF: LONDON 10331

1. AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON, ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. RICHARDSON AND EMBOFFS, VISITED NI TO LAY CORNERSTONE OF INFORMATION PAVILLION AT ULSTER-AMERICAN EXPOSITION AND FOLK PARK LOCATED IN COUNTY TYRONE (REFTEL). EVENT WAS SPONSORED BY NI BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE AND WAS FOLLOWED BY SPECIAL CEREMONY IN WHICH NEW UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER CONFERRED HONORARY DOCTOR OF LETTERS DEGREE ON AMBASSADOR. DESPITE HEAVY SECURITY AT SITE NECESSITATED BY PRESENCE OF NI SECRETARY MERLYN REES, EVENT WAS WELL COVERED BY PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION. AMBASSADOR MET WITH PRESS AT SITE AND GAVE SEPARATE TELEVISION INTERVIEWS TO BBC/ULSTER, ULSTER TV, AND IRISH (REPUBLIC) TV. HE WAS ALSO INTERVIEWED BY HMG'S CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION FOR SUBSEQUENT OVERSEAS RADIO BROADCAST. KEY NI PARTICIPANTS FROM BOTH PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES, STATEMENTS OF PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS AND AMBASSADOR'S ANCESTRAL TIES TO BOTH ULSTER AND IRISH REPUBLIC UNDERSCORED NON-SECTARIAN NATURE OF CEREMONIES.

2. TO MINIMIZE POSSIBLE OVER IDENTIFICATION WITH HMG AND REDUCE CIRCUMSTANTIAL SECURITY RISK, TRANSPORT OF AMBASSADOR AND PARTY WITHIN NI WAS PROVIDED BY USAF HELICOPTER.

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PAGE 02 LONDON 11887 011643Z

TRANSPORT TO AND FROM LONDON WAS PROVIDED BY RAF.

3. THUS FAR REACTION TO AMBASSADORIAL VISIT, FIRST TO NI BY U.S. AMBASSADOR SINCE 1958 WHEN JOHN HAY WHITNEY TOURED PROVINCE, HAS BEEN UNIFORMLY POSITIVE. AS WOULD BE EXPECTED, NI OFFICE WAS DELIGHTED, AS WERE BICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE AND NEW UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER. WHILE WE HAVE NOT SEEN TELEVISION COVERAGE, PRESS REPORTS FROM UK, NI AND IRELAND WE HAVE SEEN HAVE BEEN UNIFORMLY FAVORABLE. TRIP AND RELATED ACTIVITIES, ACCORDINGLY, MUST BE JUDGED TO HAVE PROVIDED STRONG BOOST FOR ULSTER BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS AND REAFFIRMATION US/ULSTER TIES.

RICHARDSON

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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